

# HOW WOMEN LEARN THE BUSINESS OF CITIZENSHIP

## Where to Learn How to Vote

Headquarters of the New York City Woman's Suffrage Party, 3 East 38th Street, where Professor Howard McBain, of Columbia University, is lecturing to women on the duties of a citizen and a voter.

Headquarters of the New York State Woman's Suffrage Party, 303 Fifth Avenue. A series of ten lectures, from January 7 to 19, given by experts in the various fields of political science and government.

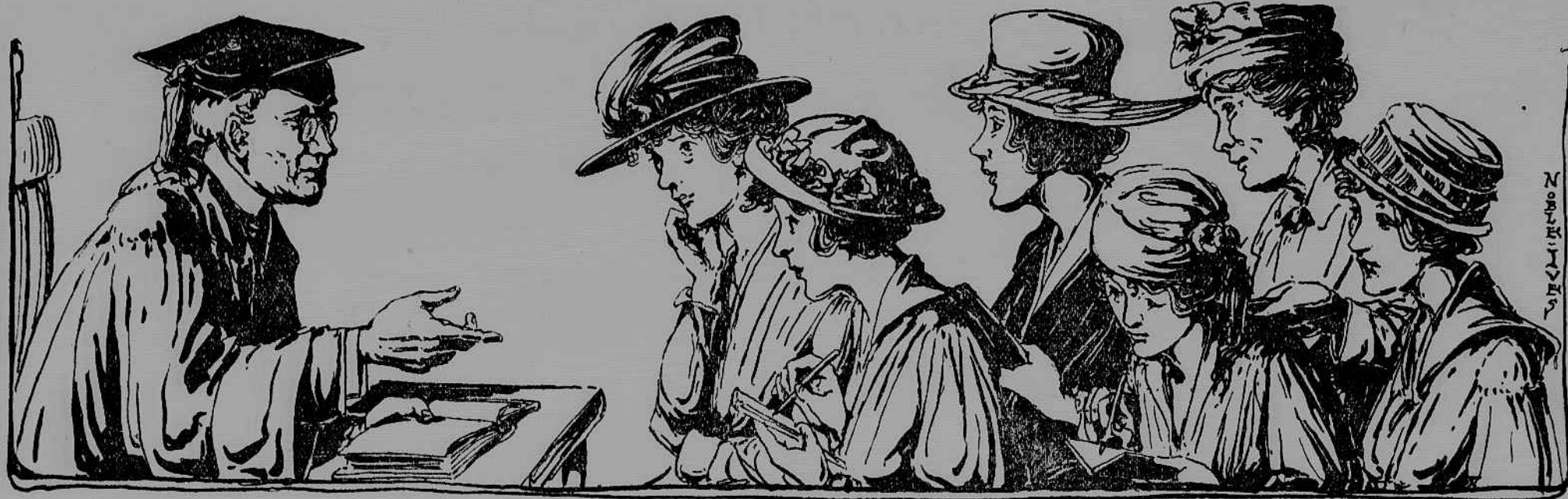
Headquarters of the Woman's City Club, where a course of lectures on political problems are being given by prominent men.

The National American Woman's Suffrage Association will issue a new official primer in February, telling women just what they ought to know in order to make each vote count.

The Institute for Public Service has issued a correspondence course for the benefit of women in country districts.

At Barnard College, courses in practical politics will supplement the regular economics course.

Neighborhood associations and settlements will give citizenship talks for mothers and girls' clubs.



The  
Tribune  
Institute  
In the World  
of Women

By SARAH ADDINGTON REID

WHILE the Republicans turn handsprings before the woman voter of New York and the Democrats dance jigs to win her favor, while both parties toss political plum blossoms in her lap and woo her extravagantly to the tune of "We Strive to Please," that lady herself, unromantic debutante in the world of politics, puts on her specs and goes to school. No time for blarney on this lady's calendar, for the school bell has rung, and the woman citizen is deep in the business of educating herself before election time comes around.

"Oh, I thought the suffragettes knew everything about politics," says the sarcastic one who was an anti before November 6. No man of judgment is an anti any more, of course.

In the first place, he didn't think that. And, secondly, even he doesn't know "everything about politics."

Does he know how much salary an alderman receives?

Does he know how long a voter has to live in an election district before he may vote there?

Does he know who issues saloon licenses in New York City?

Does he know who or what body makes traffic regulations?

Well, neither did all the suffragists know all those things, and that is why they are going to school. They're studying about them right now, and when they have graduated from their classes they are going home to tell their husbands things about city government those good men never dreamed of before.

### NO TIME LOST IN GETTING TO WORK

The first course in citizenship for women in New York City was offered by the New York City Woman Suffrage party. It didn't take "Big Boss" Mary Garrett Hay more than about five minutes after the suffrage victory was assured to decide that, now that they had the vote, the suffragists at least were going to be worthy of the confidence that New York men had shown in them.

Professor Howard McBain, of Columbia University, was secured to give the lectures, and on Thursday, December 20, the pupils went to the first class.

It was a memorable meeting. The suffrage headquarters at 3 East Thirty-eighth Street were filled to overflowing, and Teacher McBain found himself confronted with three stories of audience, all of them crowding and squeezing to hear the first golden words on his first subject, "The Ballot as a Weapon."

Professor McBain admitted that he didn't feel competent to instruct women who had shown such political sagacity as had the suffrage party, but he did give them a clear outline of the theory of the suffrage in a democracy.

The rest of Professor McBain's course in "The Business of Citizenship" will cover the voter's relation to health and labor problems,

vice and crime, schools, public utilities and, most pertinent of all, the cost of living. In this last lecture the tariff, cost of distribution, government trade, markets and terminal facilities and taxation and government expenditures will be explained to the housewife-voter, who grapples every day with these very problems.

But, after all, those three stories full of students who meet on Thursday to listen and learn, to take notes and ask questions, represent only a small sector of the woman body politic. The educational plans for the women of the state are already made to touch every kind and condition of woman eligible to exercise the franchise.

Every borough is to have its school, for example, and, after that, group schools will be opened, composed of the women of two or three Assembly districts. These latter will be free to the district women, and will be financed by the New York City Woman Suffrage party.

Besides the teaching of civics, a cordial invitation will be extended to local politicians, "ward heelers," bosses and leaders to come in and expound the doctrine of their political faiths. Mrs. Catherine Cunningham, suffrage leader of the 3d Assembly District, has already had a series of talks at her West Fourteenth Street headquarters given by local politicians.

A short course for teachers has been announced by the state suffrage party for January 7 to 19. An intensive series of ten lectures will be led by experts in the various fields of political science and government, and examinations will be held for those who wish to become teachers. Successful applicants who pass these tests will be given diplomas, after which

they may go out and do missionary work throughout the state.

Among the lecturers for this course are Professor Benjamin B. Kendrick, of Columbia University, for "Constitutional History"; Frederick C. Tanner, on "Republican Organization and History"; Morris Hillquit, for "The Doctrine of Socialism"; Calvin Derrick, on the Prisons Board; Mrs. Alice Barrows Fernandez, on "Elementary Schools"; Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Raymond Fosdick, Dr. B. E. Schultz and Mrs. Raymond Brown.

### THE FARMER'S WIFE WILL NOT BE LEFT BEHIND

But anybody who thinks that the farmer's wife up there in Genesee County is waiting idly for a city woman to come up and teach her the gospel of citizenship is mistaken. For the farmer's wife, that same Mirandy who led her John to the polls by the ear with such good effect on the well known 6th of November, has already set herself down to the study of this voting business by means of the country woman's eternal boon, a correspondence course.

The Institute for Public Service, a New York City organization, thought of the farm woman and straightway issued the course, which already is being sent upstate in large numbers. Think of her, saving her butter money to pay for it; sitting down to study her lesson the last thing at night, when every possible duty has been done; thinking it out over the churning, the washing, the cooking, all week long. She's a gallant sister, and the city women are going to be proud of the way she conducts herself now and forever at the polls.

There's another gallant little citizen, at whom the suffragists look with pride—the college girl. She, too, is going to have her prepa-

ration for the sacred duty of the franchise. At Barnard, for example, Dean Gildersleeve has promised courses in practical politics to supplement the regular Barnard economics course. Professor Maude A. Huttman, assistant in the department of history, is busy now outlining the work, and the first courses will be opened next term. Hunter College began a course on December 10.

In addition to all these, the Women's City Club has started a course of lectures on political problems, given by such men as Travis Whitney, Henry Bruere, John Collier, Frederick C. Howe, Lawson Purdy and Samuel Untermyer. The neighborhood associations and settlements are planning citizenship talks for their mothers' and girls' clubs, and everybody else in New York is writing a primer for the political first grader.

"The National American Woman Suffrage Association will issue a new official primer in February; Mrs. Halsey W. Wilson is compiling a 'Woman Voter's Handbook,' part of which will deal particularly with New York conditions; Mrs. Raymond Brown is filling a publisher's order for a book on civics. The publishers are as excited over the women as the politicians are, and every company is demanding a book immediately.

In the meantime, though, there are some special elections pending for Representatives to the Congress of the United States. Along in January or February some time—the date to be set by a proclamation of the Governor—in three Congressional districts—the 7th and 8th in Brooklyn and the 22d in the Bronx—the voters will go to the polls to fill the places of Congressmen Fitzgerald, Griffin and Bruckner, who are off the books for various reasons.

What are the women doing to prepare for that great event, their first exercise of the ballot?

Well, they can't do much until the State Legislature passes a bill permitting their special registration. For registration has had its day until October, 1918, and unless a special bill is put through up at Albany the women will not be able to vote until next November, for no woman, any more than a man, may vote unless she is duly registered and accredited.

The following formula, which sounds like a multiplication table, is being dished out to those women who seek facts about their candidacy as voters: Thirty days in an election district, six months in the county, one year in the state, American citizen, twenty-one years, registered, equals one voter.

Those are the qualifications for a voter in the Empire State. If you moved to Brooklyn from Manhattan on October 1, for example, you're ineligible, for Brooklyn is Kings County and Manhattan is New York County, and six months in the county, says the law; so there you are.

As to the personality of the men you will vote for—if you vote—nothing can be said now, for nobody knows who they will be. The party organizations will name the candidates, the political sages say, later on.

Strange what a casual thing politics can be, after all, isn't it? But women will get casual about them, too, perhaps. And in the meantime let them flock to school, eager, though green, as freshmen. Let them pore over their textbooks and wear out the library reference books.

And let him who thinks that women don't take their voting job seriously try to get in at the Thirty-eighth Street meeting some time.

# OUR SECOND LINE OF DEFENCE—THE GIRLHOOD OF AMERICA

By ELEN FOSTER

WHO are about to drive, salute you!" There is no use in beating about the bush—one may as well come straight out with it—to-day marks the beginning of still another DRIVE!

Driving seems to have developed into the most popular of the war-time sports. We have had the Liberty Loan Drive, the Food Drive, the Red Cross Drive, the Jewish War Relief Drive, and goodness knows how many lesser drives, and now to-day comes the beginning of another—the Young Women's Christian Association Drive.

News of this latest drive has come to us like a bolt from the blue. Preparations for it have gone on almost secretly—there has been no blare of trumpets, no alluring posters have adorned our walls and ashcans—and yet the members of the Y. W. C. A. are grasping the reins in hands that are just as strong and just as well-trained as those of the workers who have guided the preceding drives to a successful finish.

The Y. W. C. A. is driving to win! Its object is to wrest \$1,750,000 from the pockets of the citizens of New York City for the purpose of strengthening our "second line of defence."

This is really a supplementary campaign to the one just brought to a close which raised \$4,000,000 from the country at large. New York City was left out of this canvass so that all efforts might be concentrated on a special campaign, and now the bell is about to sound and the Drive is on! A big mass meeting at the Hippodrome marks the start—let us hope that the finish will be just as inspiring!

What do you know of the work that the Y. W. C. A. is doing? Not much, I'll wager, for the organization has grown so quietly and so steadily that it has attracted very little public attention. It was founded some fifty years ago for the purpose of caring for both the souls and bodies of the young working-women who were away from home and friends and therefore liable to fall into temptation. Buildings were erected for the housing of these young women, and their physical and moral welfare was carefully looked after. Religious instruction played a very important part in the work in those days, and from this the impression went abroad that the members of the Y. W. C. A. were a lot of "goody-goodies," who knew and cared for nothing beyond the saving of their own souls and those of the benighted heathen across the seas.

### CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN PRAYER MEETINGS

It was only the other day that I heard an intelligent man, who should have known better, refer to them as "a parcel of prayer-meeting females," which merely goes to show that it is high time that they had a Drive, high time that they came out of their shell and let the world know a little of the work that they

are doing; high time, in other words, that they took their proper place among the other war-workers!

And let me tell you that their place among these workers is a pretty high one, for it deals with problems which are quite as vital to the future of this country as they are to the present. They are the same problems, after all, which they faced at the time of their organization, fifty years ago; the self-same problems, but the methods of dealing with them have undergone a radical change—they are met more on the ground of humanity and less on that of religion, but the purpose of the Y. W. C. A. is still, and ever will be, the care and protection of our young women and girls, physical care, moral care and spiritual care. You can judge for yourself how war conditions must have increased this work.

Think of the girls in this country who are employed in the various branches of war work, in government positions, in munition factories, as workers in various lines of work in the training camps. "A million girls in this country," according to good authority, "have already gone into new positions created by the war, and a great many of these have moved to new towns and strange environments. Already the need of adjustment to new conditions is critical."

### THE HOUSING OF WOMEN WORKERS.

The government was hard put, in the first place, to house these new employees. There was, for instance, the case of fifteen hundred girls employed in a cartridge factory in the Middle West. There were not living accommodations enough for them in the town itself or in the neighboring town, four miles away. The report came that the girls slept three in a bed, and that the beds were never empty, night or day. As a last resort the government called on the Y. W. C. A. for help, and, to the amazement of every one concerned, it was found that the association had scores of trained workers, all ready and waiting to go to work.

For, be it known, the Y. W. C. A. for years has maintained a training school where students have been instructed in the handling of all problems relating to working women, and from this school hundreds of social workers have gone forth, properly equipped to deal with these problems.

Can't you see what a godsend this was to the country? Here were women with just the training and experience needed in this emergency. So the Y. W. C. A. has taken upon itself the responsibility of caring for the women and girls engaged in war work in this country. More than this, workers have already been sent to the Allied countries to perform the same sort of service there.

### BARRACKS BUILT BY THE Y. W. C. A.

Their task began with the housing problem. Barracks were put up in all parts of the country for the accommodation of the women workers. Each of these buildings

contains a big cheerful living room, where the girls can entertain their friends of either sex; a dining room, also big and cheerful, and what is known as a "fudge kitchen," supplied with stoves and cooking utensils, where the girls can "mess about," just as if they were in their own home kitchens.

Each girl has a comfortable little room of her own, and there are plenty of bathrooms and good, big closets. One of the largest of these barracks was erected at Charleston, S. C., for the accommodation of the thousand or more young women and girls who work in the factories where naval uniforms are made. The request for these barracks came from Secretary Daniels, who asked that the Y. W. C. A. should do this as its contribution to the work of the navy.

At Camp Sherman a little town, known as "Camp Sherman Annex," has been built for the factory workers, and the women of Ohio

raised the money for a Hostess House for the settlement.

At Junction City, Kan., there is a barracks for the laundresses who work for the men at the camp near by, and so it goes.

Perhaps the work of the Y. W. C. A. which has attracted the most attention has been the erection of Hostess houses in the various camps. Fifty of these have been built already and others are in the process of construction. Any one who has visited relatives or friends in a training camp appreciates what a boon and a blessing the Hostess House is. Each one has a skilled cafeteria director in charge of the kitchen. Also there is the hostess and her assistant, who is an interpreter for the non-English speaking visitor.

### HELP FOR BEWILDERED FOREIGNERS

And, by the way, the branch of the Y. W. C. A. work which deals with the non-English

speaking population is very important. There are many homes where English is not spoken from which the husband or son has gone into service. The Y. W. C. A. sends a visitor to such a home, and she explains to the family in its own language the various questions which have been found puzzling.

This same service looks after the immigrant girls who have come to this country by the thousands since the beginning of the war, some to earn money to send to those at home, some to prepare a home to which to bring their friends or family when the war is over, and some merely for safety and protection.

Another important feature is the recreation and club work conducted by the association for the purpose of "guiding the patriotic impulses of girls near the camps." A score of women physicians are lecturing to the mothers and daughters throughout the country on "Social Standards in War Time." Recreation clubs have been formed in factories where girls are employed, led by women trained to teach all sorts of games and sports.

The Girls' Patriotic League, which is under the auspices of the Y. W. C. A., has enrolled two hundred thousand members, each one of whom has signed the pledge card, which reads as follows:

"I pledge to express my patriotism by doing better than ever before whatever I have to do, by rendering whatever special service I can to my community and country, by living up to the highest standards of character and honor and helping others to do the same."

At the Y. W. C. A. headquarters they tell a story of a girl who wore the button of the Patriotic League. She was a very pretty girl and she was accosted by a soldier on a Staten Island ferryboat.

"What's the button, sister?" he asked by way of opening the conversation.

"That button," replied the girl, "is going to make New York safe for men like you."

The soldier was silent for a minute, and then he touched his hat. "Goodby," said he, "if you don't mind my saying so, you're a little bit of all right."

With all these activities, the work of the Y. W. C. A. is not confined to this country—not by a good deal! There are already thirty-two workers overseas, and more to follow. Why, bless your heart, there is a Hostess House in the very heart of Paris!

### HELP SENT ACROSS THE SEA

Strange as it may seem, the first call for help came from Russia, long before this country went into the war. A group of Russian women, unable to cope with the new economic, religious and industrial conditions for women throughout the Russian Empire, asked for the help of experienced Y. W. C. A. secretaries. Two women set sail immediately, and since then seven other workers have joined them, these including a physical director and two cafeteria experts. Tearooms presided over by the latter are in fine running order in Moscow

and Petrograd, and others are to be established very soon.

France called for help, and twelve women were sent, some of whom have been asked to assist a committee of French women in equipping and directing "foyer canteens" for industrial women whose hours of labor are long and on whom the stress of war bears heavily. Help in providing rest rooms, recreation and proper food for these women is what suffering France is asking of the American Young Women's Christian Association.

Other workers in France are in charge of the huts for the use of our American nurses. These huts are now being constructed at the hospital base units and will be to the nurses of duty what our own American nurses' clubs are to the nurses at home.

There are workers, too, planning for the comfort of women munition makers. A letter from one of these tells of the need of bringing a little cheer into the lives of these women.

"Last night," she says, "I made a trip through the munition centres near Lyons. It was about 2 a. m., and one of the shifts was leaving work. It was dark and very muddy in the new roads which lead to the barracks where the workers live. There was a babel of strange languages as Arabs, Greeks, Chinese, Moroccans, Portuguese and French passed in a long, long procession."

### HELP FOR MUNITION WORKERS IN FRANCE

"They were going, most of them, to their barracks, where they live in huge, open dormitories. And while they are all engaged in long, weary labor to make instruments to destroy other human beings, the conditions under which they lived and worked made them but little above animals."

"The Foyer at Feysin was opened this week. It is beautiful with its fresh blue and cream paint. We served tea to some visitors yesterday, and were so pleased to have a lieutenant colonel, a major and two captains with us. Two officers came from another large government 'usine,' and they are going to build a foyer for us, to be ready in January. In the meantime we shall visit the women at noon and get acquainted with them."

Have I told you enough about the work of the Y. W. C. A. to dispel forever from your mind the idea that its members are "a parcel of prayer-meeting females"?

I hope so, and I also hope that I have opened your eyes to the really important service which this association is rendering, not only to the women of our country but to the women and girls of our allies. This is all that I can do, but you, yourself, can go further.

When you are visited during the house-to-house canvass which is to be carried on for the raising of the \$1,750,000 which is needed to carry on this work, be as generous as you can possibly afford to be, remembering that in doing so you are strengthening our second line of defence—the Girls of America!



"Stand Behind the Country's Girlhood." Slogan of the Y. W. C. A. drive for war funds. Poster drawn by W. T. Bendix and given to the Y. W. C. A.